REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on June 5, 2003, objections were made to the drawings; claims 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takakura; claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakura in view of alleged well-known prior art; claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakura in view of Thadani; and claims 7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakura in view of Sasaki. Formal drawings are being submitted concurrently with this Reply to overcome the objections to the drawings. The §§ 102 and 103 rejections are addressed below.

Rejections of Claims 4 and 11:

The Examiner rejects claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takakura in view of alleged well-known prior art. More specifically, the Examiner takes official notice, "that it is well-known in the art to minimize the amount of computation performed when a camera is operating in a video "real-time" mode due to time constraints." Although the Examiner's statement may or may not be true, the Examiner has shown no suggestion or motivation to modify Takakura to derive the obviousness rejection for either claim 4 or claim 11. In this manner, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be suggestion or motivation in the art to support the combination. Furthermore, the Examiner must provide support, with specific citations to the art, establishing the alleged suggestion or motivation. *Ex parte Gambogi*, 62 USPQ2d 1209, 1212 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 2001); *In re Rijckaert*, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993); M.P.E.P. § 2143. To the extent the Examiner is taking official notice of the alleged suggestion or motivation to modify Takakura, as set forth by the Examiner, Applicant hereby challenges the official notice and requests a reference by the Examiner to support the Examiner's contention. M.P.E.P. § 2144.03. Otherwise, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections of claims 4 and 11 is requested.

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Rejections of Claims 1-7:

The method of claim 1 includes capturing an optical image to form raw data that is indicative of the optical image and using the values in a look-up table to transform the raw data and to transform data that is indicative of a second image. The method also includes computing a white color balance of the second image and modifying the values in a look-up table based on the computed white color balance and the values.

Contrary to the limitations of amended claim 1, Takakura neither teaches nor suggests modifying values in a look-up table based on a computed white color balance and the values in the table. More specifically, Takakura teaches writing data to look-up tables (LUTs) in response to a computed white color balance. However, Takakura neither teaches nor suggests modifying values in any of the LUTs based on the values already stored in the LUTs. Therefore, for at least this reason, Takakura fails to teach all limitations of amended claim 1.

Claims 2-7 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 8-15:

The image processing circuit of claim 8 includes a second circuit to modify the values in a look-up table based on a computed white color balance and the values.

Contrary to the limitations of amended claim 8, Takakura neither teaches nor suggests modifying values in a look-up table based on values already in the table. In this manner, as discussed above in connection with claim 1, Takakura teaches writing values to an LUT but neither teaches nor suggests that the previously-stored values play any role in the new values that are written to the LUT. Therefore, for at least this reason, Takakura fails to teach the limitations of amended claim 8.

Claims 9-15 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 16-18:

As amended, the article of claim 16 includes a storage medium that is readable by a processor-based system. This storage medium stores instructions to cause a processor to modify values in a look-up table based on a computed white color balance and the values.

See discussion of claim 1 above. In particular, Takakura neither teaches nor suggests instructions to cause a processor to modify values in a look-up table based on values stored in the table. Therefore, for at least this reason, Takakura fails to teach the limitations of amended claim 16.
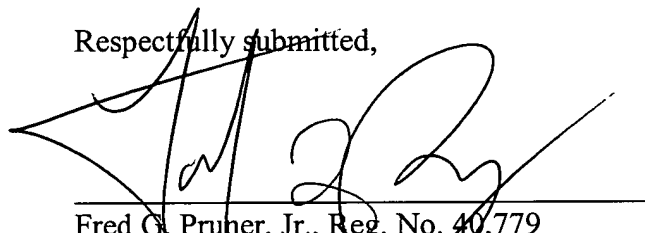
Claims 17 and 18 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections of claims 1-18 and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0237US).

Respectfully submitted,

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